

ILLINOIS

CHAPTER

Land Improvement Contractors  
of America

LICA

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ILLICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

November - December 2008

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“EXTREME” LITWILLER EXCAVATING

(PAGE 12)

Featured Contractor



Litwiller Excavating provides demolition team for “Extreme Makeover - Home Edition” in Pekin, Illinois.



Also Featured Inside

Area 3 and Area 8 Member Meeting Results (page 6)

2009 National LICA Convention Information (page 10 - 11)

2009 ILICA Workshop Agenda & Registration (page 19 - 20)

Upcoming Events:

Annual Convention & Winter  
Members Meeting -  
January 15-17, 2009

Annual Workshop -  
February 24 - 25, 2009

Complete Event Schedule -  
Page 18

Return To: Illinois LICA  
P.O. Box 474  
Brimfield, IL 61517

# PERSONAL CARE / HEISER INSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION



Greetings ILICA, from PersonalCare, an Insurance Company with National Strength and Local Presence



PersonalCare ranks as one of the top health plans in the country and is the top-ranked commercial health plan in Illinois per commercial health plan rankings published in *U.S. News & World Report "America's Best Health Plans 2008"*. PersonalCare provides coverage to more than 1,100 employer groups and more than 100,000 members. We are operated locally with the support of our parent company, Coventry Health Care, Inc (Coventry), a customer driven, Fortune 500 company based in Bethesda, Maryland.

Coventry understands that health care delivered locally is the best way to serve you and your business. That's why Coventry keeps its plans based in the communities they serve while providing national support for operations. Collectively, Coventry employs more than 13,000 employees and provides products and services to more than 30,000 employer groups and 4 million members across the country.

Your employees want insurance because it provides security. You will feel secure purchasing insurance from PersonalCare. We are part of a financially strong company with a proven track record for growth that has received numerous accolades for its financial and service success.

**This program is being endorsed by the ILICA Board of Directors and is available exclusively through Tim Neuhauser at Heiser Insurance.**  
Please come to the presentation at this year's convention, January 15th at 1:15 pm to learn more about this new program.



**Welcome!**

## New Associate Members

**Applied Turf Products - Monticello**  
Shirley Baxter

**Associated Professionals, Inc. - Elgin**  
Tim McCann

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# The ILLICA News



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### The LICA Creed



Land, the foundation of the Nation  
 The basis of all wealth  
 The heritage of the wise  
 The thrifty and prudent  
 The poor man's joy and comfort  
 The producer of food, fiber and fuel  
 The basis of factories  
 The foundation of banks

All that man builds is from the land. We often take it for granted or even abuse it; And yet many, unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by. What man does with the land will be the deciding factor of his survival.

### Meeting Notice

**ILICA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Heiser Insurance**  
**133 S. Main Street - Morton, IL**  
 Saturday, March 7, 2009  
 2:00 pm

**Committee Meetings**  
**10 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Lunch Provided**  
 (See map on page 18)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again,

It appears winter is defiantly here. Today is January 4<sup>th</sup> and the temperature is 26 degrees. What a year it has been for weather. We began with dry weather in the early spring and then torrential rains came in late spring. The high rainfall kept up until the middle of August. We had severe storms that caused damage in the thousands of dollars to buildings and many other assets. These storms came in the middle of summer which is not common for severe weather in this area. After August 15<sup>th</sup> it turned off dry and we felt it was dry enough to cause stress on the corn and beans. Little did we know that we would still end up with record yields in our area? That, coupled with the high grain prices, made it appear that we may have an exceptional year for profits. \$4.00 + diesel fuel and almost \$4.00 gasoline at its high, helped offset these profits. However, I feel most Farmers were pleased with the outcome of 2008. It certainly will go on record. We have gone from \$2.00 gas to \$4.00 gas and now are down to \$1.50 gas. Crop prices have went through an all time high of \$16 for beans that now are down near \$9.00. Corn has followed suit from \$1.89 to \$7.00 and now down to below \$4.00. Crude oil also went from a low of \$35 a barrel to near \$150 a barrel and now back down to near \$60.00. We have had record rainfall as well.

We have had an excellent fall for working however our work is far from being caught up. It appears now the season is fairly well done due to the weather. Our winter came in with very little snow however the icy conditions we have had since the beginning of December have been tremendous. We have already salted more this year than we did in the past four years combined. We have had considerable rainfall along with warmer temperatures making our field work come to a halt. Talking to most contractors across the state I think work has been plentiful due to the above conditions and I believe that it will spill over into 2009 as well. After 2009, only time will tell.

We have elected a president we are not sure is a natural born citizen. I will drop that for now. Governor Blago#&%X, **give it up!** Save us taxpayers thousands of dollars for the impeachment process and let's continue on with state government. We have work to do instead of convincing you that selling the senate seat vacated by the election really is illegal. I won't mention any other illegal acts. You didn't want to live in Springfield anyway so let's find someone that does, instead of paying thousands dollars of our money to ship him back and forth.

As for ILICA, I mentioned in my last message we were having area meetings around the state for a membership drive. WOW, was that a success. We gathered 19 new mem-

bers, putting us over the 100 contractor member mark, 108 to be exact. We want to thank Jerry Biuso for all his help. I'm sure he will attend our annual meeting so make a special effort to shake his hand and thank him. We also want to thank our committee members, Janet, and the Co-Chairmen for all their hard work. Speaking of our annual convention, don't forget on January 15-17, 2009 your presence is requested at the Abe Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL to engage in a fun time, hospitality, and an annual members meeting second to none.

I want to thank everyone for their patience for putting up with me as President of your organization for the last two years. This will be the last time I address you on a state level. I hope I have hit home with at least some of you members. It has been an honor to serve each and every one of you. Some of the times were very trying early on however, with the help of all our committees, chairmen, members, and friends in general, my position as president ended being a privilege, not a job. A **special thank you** goes out to our Executive Director, **Janet Doubet**; without her this organization would not run as smooth as it does. God Bless her and each and every one of you. Again, thanks and take care.

Bill Dean,  
ILICA President

### ILICA Convention Name Tags



**... on nametags at the 2009 ILICA Convention and take the time to personally welcome one of these new ILICA members!**

# MEET SOME OF OUR NEWEST ILICA MEMBERS



(Above, 1 to r) Eric Southcombe with Stuart Anderson, Area 2; John & Michael Mars with Norm Kocher, Area 8; Neal Barnes with Jonathan Stanley, Area 7; (Below, 1 to r) Travis Miller, Wayne Litwiller, Jim Miller and Norm Kocher, Area 8; Jerry Biuso with Randy Steber and Norm Kocher, Area 8.



## New Contractor Members

**Eric R Southcombe**

Southcombe Landscape Services - Newark

**Tim Tedford**

Fox Creek Farm Service LTD - Dundas

**Verlin E Cokley**

Cokley Tractor Service - Parkersburg

**Keith Fisher**

Growing Green Lawn Care - Lawrenceville

**Travis Miller**

Miller Excavating - Newton

**Randy Steber**

Steber Excavating Service Inc. - Olney

**Jeff Kocher**

C.F.C.O. Inc. - Lawrenceville

**Gary Kaiser**

C.F.C.O. Inc. - Lawrenceville

**Michael Mars**

Mars Plumbing & Heating, Inc. - Vandalia

**Dale Stuber**

Stuber Land Design - Tremont

**John Ray**

Ray's Mowing & Backhoe Service - Fairfield

**Brent Breedlove**

J.D. Construction - Manito

**Sam Wettstein**

The Hole Deal, Inc. - Congerville

**Gordon Whittaker**

Whittaker Land Improvement - Toulon

**Dennis W. Brooks**

D. Brooks Excavating, Inc. - Glasford

**Dean Parker**

Parker Farm & Dragline Service - Wayne City

**Richard Heinkel**

JRH Services - Decatur

**Doug Nicholson**

Stormwater Environmental Strategies, Inc. - Millstadt

**Jonathan Stanley**

Girl Scouts - Edwardsville

# ILICA AREA 3 & AREA 8 MEMBER MEETINGS VERY WELL RECEIVED

Thanks to our outstanding associate member support and a lot of hard work by the ILICA membership committee, the recently revived Area member meetings were a big success this November.

Martin Equipment of Illinois hosted the first Area 3 meeting at their facility in Goodfield, Illinois and 65 contractors turned out to enjoy the delicious Rib-Eye sandwich dinner provided by Martin's as well as a presentation on IDOT Regulations for Contractors by Troopers Colin White and Fred Thatcher from District 8 of the Illinois State Police Vehicle Enforcement Division. The food was great, the State Police Troopers were very entertaining and informative, and ILICA gained 4 new members by the end of the evening.

The next day, our traveling membership crew headed south for the first Area 8 member meeting at Fabick-CAT in Mt. Carmel. Caterpillar and Fabick teamed up to provide a delicious BBQ dinner at their newest facility and offer Area 8 contractors the chance to have Troopers Bob Kruse and J.D. Bromm present a similar educational program. With our local ILICA members helping to get the word out, more than 20 area contractors attended the meeting and by the next morning, 6 more contractors had signed up for active membership.

Although the team had covered a lot of ground, they weren't done yet. The rest of the day was spent on individual meetings as they made their way toward Mt. Vernon and the final member meeting of November. Erb Equipment in Mt. Vernon had agreed to host the meeting at a local Ryan's Grill & Buffet. After a delicious buffet meal, Illinois State Police Sgt. Keith Stephens provided another very entertaining IDOT educational program for us.

Member meetings will be held starting next March in Area's 3 and 8 as a definite annual schedule is determined. We appreciate the support of our current membership and encourage everyone to use these meetings as the means to bring our organization to other area contractors.

The support of our associates is critical to the success of these meetings, and again, our thanks go out to all these outstanding equipment dealers who helped kick off the newest benefit of membership with ILICA.



(Upper left) Area 3 meeting attendees at Martin Equipment, Goodfield, Illinois.  
(Above) Membership "traveling buddies" (in the green shirts) with Trooper Fred Thatcher and Trooper Colin White from the Illinois State Police at Martins.  
(Below, 1 to r) Area 8 meeting attendees at Fabick-CAT, Mt. Carmel; Troopers Bob Kruse and J.D. Bromm address group at Mt. Carmel meeting.



# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HITS A HOME RUN!



Under the direction of our membership committee co-chairs, Wayne Litwiller and Norm Kocher, and National Executive VP, Jerry Biuso, several ILICA Directors turned the November

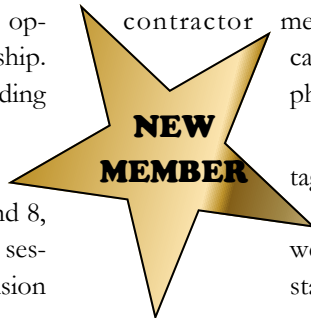
troopers from those Districts. A very special thanks goes out to Martin Equipment, Fabick-CAT, Caterpillar and Erb Equipment for sponsoring these informative meetings. They gave ILICA members another opportunity to share the many ways ILICA has helped their businesses through the years along with the many other benefits of joining our organization.

membership drive into a **HUGE** success.

Starting on Monday, November 17th, membership committee members and other ILICA directors brought contractors from their respective areas to a series of breakfast and lunch meetings scheduled around the state, giving them an opportunity to share the many benefits of ILICA membership. Most of these meetings proved to be very productive, adding several new contractor members to our roster.

In addition, the first Area member meetings, sponsored by our ILICA associates, were held in Areas 3 and 8, giving local contractors a free meal and a free educational session presented by Illinois State Police, Motor Carrier Division

Several one-on-one meetings set up by Norm Kocher, Area 8 director and Membership Committee co-chair, also gave our traveling membership committee a chance to talk to contractors on their job-sites. Each of these opportunities gained new contractor members for ILICA, totaling 19, who you can see listed on page 5 along with several photos.



Please look for the special name-tags with these gold stars (also shown on page 4) at this year's convention and help welcome our newest members to this outstanding organization.

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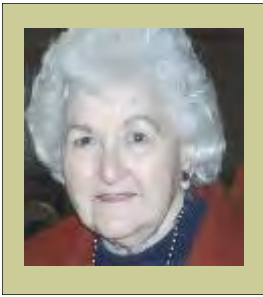
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## GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

Gee Whiz! Is this the time when we say, "Stop the world, I want to get off?" Have you ever wondered where we would be if we did get off? Since this gal is not adventurous, wherever that would be, it would no doubt scare the bewillinkins out of me. One of my sons has been to New York several times and really likes it! Any large city would put the fear of Jasper in me, but he eats it up. Guess that is why large crowds are not for me. A story goes that years ago, when department stores had floor-walkers to try to keep little ones from misbehaving, one was having a devil of a time and finally said to the lady, (trying to be nice) "Ma'am, may I suggest the next time you bring your children (she had brought six!) that you leave half of them at home." She looked him straight in the eye and replied, "I DID!"



Christmas will be over by the time this is printed, but memories will linger. When it gets too difficult to buy a gift because you don't know what the person would like, it seems that cash would benefit them best; then they can get something they prefer and it works fine. I've not read anywhere if people exchanged gifts "back then" or not. We talk of Peace this time of the year. There are some countries in our world who do not know the meaning of the word. Gosh, its such a good way to live when one can be happy and enjoy our neighbors and relatives. We could then have Peace with God, the Peace of God as well as Peace with others.

Rambling Rose is still eating frozen turkey - it goes with anything and you can choose white or dark meat. I believe the dark has more flavor. Something my family won't eat is fruitcake, so I enjoy it by myself. The one this year has more pecans in it than anything else. Most people have a favorite food they like, but it seems more fun to eat quite a few different foods and see if they like you! That's what Tums are for...right?

Well, my Cubs did it again - played very well until it really meant something and then pretended they didn't know how to play. If they keep on doing that, I will have to pretend to have forgotten the Cubs song.



Have you heard much comments from the farming industry? The situation is so unusual they are probably speechless. One certainly sees many more nice homes there now and you can bet your boots the ladies are not complaining, since they surely deserve a nice modern home.

Our eminent (I would LOVE to misspell that word (shut my mouth!!)) governor has put his foot in it so far it may

never be found!

We are in the season of Winter again. That is our Word for this issue and we can even play a game with it, such as figuring out how many games can you make up out of "Winter." You know, the Good Lord made these seasons for the purpose only He knows for what. I am reading a novel now about some government people tracking down wolves around Lake Michigan and it is in the middle of winter. I would probably freeze just reading about it if it were real. Many people still go to the warmer climates during the winter season here and if you like that way of living, more power to you. I would miss seeing my grandchildren (and great-grandchildren now) grow up, birthday parties, etc. Why a few weeks ago, one of my grandsons (he works for our city) called and came over during his lunch break with a lunch for him and me and we had a very enjoyable time together; That was a very nice thing to do!

Here's a church bulletin blooper: "Don't let worry kill you - let the church help." "Ladies' Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done." What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible? Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in a FURY - David's TRIUMPH was heard throughout the land. Also, probably a Honda because the Apostles were of one ACCORD! Why didn't they play cards on the ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck. Who was the greatest female financier in the bible? Pharaoh's daughter - she went down to the Nile and drew out a little prophet! What do you bet Washington DC could use someone like that today - right?

Who comes up with "This is the month of ????????" If it isn't a disease, they invent one. If anyone invents another thing to donate to they will have to contact someone else besides me, as I am all donated out. Plus, we wonder if some of these places actually reach where they are supposed to. And labels - thank goodness they are sending fewer of those or Methuselah will have to give me his secret how he lived so long.

They keep warning us that our fuel bills will go up, but it hasn't happened at my place yet. If Old Man Winter doesn't try to freeze us out, we will probably be okay. Winter is the time for looking out the window to find out if any snowmen are lurking there. The best thing about Winter is that we will soon see Spring!

My best to all of you and don't let Mr. Arthur get his pains in you - believe me it's not good. I probably won't see you at Convention, but will think of you!

.....Rambling Rose





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - 2009 NEW STATE LAWS

As the year 2009 debuts, so do nearly 120 new state laws. They deal with a kaleidoscope of topics such as crime, health and license plates.

One of the highest-profile new laws focuses on political ethics. House Bill 824, as it was tagged during the legislative process, aims to curb the practice of “pay to play” by putting limits on political donations from government contractors. It prohibits anyone with state contracts worth \$50,000 or more from making political donations to the state officeholders who award the contracts.

That bill endured a long and topsy-turvy journey through the General Assembly, but lawmakers eventually sent it to Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He used his amendatory veto power to recommend expansion of the bill’s provisions. However, lawmakers overrode his veto, enabling the measure to become law in the form they intended.

Numerous other bills the General Assembly passed during the last year or so already have become law. They contained language specifying that their effective date would be whenever they were signed into law. One such piece of legislation, Senate Bill 1290, took effect in November. It will let Peoria County seek voter approval for a special sales tax to help pay for a long-planned Peoria riverfront museum. Though inspired by the Peoria community’s effort to build the museum, the new law applies in a broader sense to all Illinois counties. It lets them ask voters in a referendum if they want to support a sales tax hike “for public facility purposes.”

The full text of the new laws is available online at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). One way to search is to type the bill number into the uppermost blank box on the left-hand side of the page. Here’s a look at some of the other new laws.



**Senate Bill 2426** - Expands the definition of “cyberstalking” to include various acts, such as the creation of an Internet site that lasts at least 24 hours and harasses or threatens someone.

**Senate Bill 2719** - This law, spurred by the murder of an Arlington Heights woman, lets judges order electronic surveillance as a condition of bail for someone charged with violating an order of protection.

**House Bill 4206** - Forbids carrying a billy club or similar weapon in a government building.

**Senate Bill 300** - First-time DUI offenders in Illinois must equip their vehicles with an “ignition interlock device” if they want to drive legally to work or anywhere else while their licenses are suspended. The device requires a driver to blow into a tube so his or her breath can be tested for liquor. If liquor is detected, the vehicle won’t start.

**House Bill 5596** - Designates each February as Women’s Heart Disease Awareness Month.

**House Bill 1685** - Through this measure, Illinois has indicated it is willing to bypass the Electoral College in presidential elections, relying instead on the results of the popular vote. Many other states also would have to do the same before the change could be implemented.

**Senate Bill 730** - Some newly installed, automatically operated lawn sprinkler systems - not those on golf courses or agricultural lands - must be capable of shutting themselves off during periods of sufficient moisture or rainfall.

*From: The State Journal Register - Article by: Adriana Colindres*





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# The National LICA Winter Convention - February 10-15, 2009

## Embassy Suites Hotel, Nashville Airport, Nashville, TN

### *Welcome to Nashville!*

The 2009 National Winter LICA Convention promises to be the most exciting in many years with fun tours, unique educational programs and in the magical city of Nashville.

Nashville has so much to see...so little time. With a multitude of outstanding attractions, events, tours, shopping, restaurants and live entertainment, it's hard to fit everything into a single visit.

#### Agenda

##### Tuesday, February 10, 2009

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Discover Nashville Tour *(Optional)*  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Executive Committee

##### Wednesday, February 11, 2009

7:00 am – 9:00 pm Komatsu Tour *(Optional)*

##### Thursday, February 12, 2009

5:00 am – 7:00 pm Registration  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Educational Seminars and LICA Benefits  
Drainage Water Management Workshop  
Introduction to "Seal The Deal" Dynamic Sales Training  
Improving Safety and Efficiency Through Productivity  
Estate Planning (Passing on your business)  
Introduction to The Puraflo Peat Biofilter System  
Introduction to Pervious Concrete the alternative to costly stormwater management methods.

7:00 – 10:00 pm **Associates Reception and Exhibit Hall**

#### Hotel Information

### Embassy Suites Hotel Nashville Airport

Room Rate \$112 plus tax

(800) 362-2779 • (615) 871-0033

Request: Land Improvement Contractors

**Deadline: January 14, 2009**

#### Agenda Continued

##### Friday, February 13, 2009

7:30am- 8:00am Devotions  
8:30 am – 9:45 am Committee Meetings  
Certification  
Devotions  
Legislative  
Water Table Management  
10:00 am – 11:00 am By-laws  
Cons. Earthmoving & Exc  
Education / Technology  
11:15 am – 12:15 pm On-Site Waste  
Long Term Planning  
Membership  
12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm- 2:30 pm Policy  
Safety / Insurance  
Convention  
Associate Advisory  
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Region Meetings  
Region 1  
Region 2  
Region 3  
Region 4  
Region 6  
Region 8  
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm Nominating  
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner  
7:00 pm -10:00 pm Tour Grand Ole Opry Show *(Optional)*

##### Saturday, February 14, 2009

7:00 am- 7:30 am Devotions  
8:30 am – 10:00 am Executive Directors  
9:30 am – 10:00 am Budget Committee  
10:30 am – 11:45 am Delegate Meeting  
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **John Deere Luncheon**  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Board Meeting & Issue  
Session  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **CNA Insurance Reception**  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Caterpillar Awards Banquet**

# The National Winter Tours and Events

## Komatsu Plant Tour and Training Demo site

**Tour Komatsu's Manufacturing Plant, Chattanooga, TN**  
 Members will enjoy a two hour tour of the Chattanooga Manufacturing plant. Its main focus is on mid-size hydraulic excavators and articulated dump trucks. The expansive operation covers 488,000 square feet and sits on 53 acres of property.

**Komatsu's Training and Demo Site, Cartersville, GA**



Members will tour Komatsu's state-of-the-art training facility and 500 acres of Demo Site adjacent to the main building. This facility will give our members an opportunity to learn and more importantly test the latest advances in Komatsu's equipment and technologies. The site gives customers a "hands-on approach" as they operate equipment in environments that simulate real work applications such as excavating, dozing, grading and even a haul road to simulate mining and quarry usage.

### Agenda

6:00 - 7:00am	Breakfast on your own.
7:00 am	Board buses and depart to Chattanooga
9:00-11:00 am	Tour Komatsu's Manufacturing Plant, Chattanooga, TN
11:00 am	Board buses depart to Cartersville, GA.
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch at Komatsu's Training and Demo site, Cartersville, GA
1:30-5:00 pm	Members will tour Komatsu's state-of-the-art training facility and 500 acres of Demo Site adjacent to the main building.
5:00 pm	Board busses for Chattanooga Hotel.
6:00 pm	Dinner in Chattanooga
7:00 pm	Board busses for return trip to the hotel.



### Discover Nashville Tour

Any city that was founded as a fort in 1779 is certain to be packed with history. And Nashville certainly doesn't disappoint in that department. Music City was home to two U.S. presidents, the site of bloody Civil War battles, host of the 1897 World's Fair and the quintessential antebellum Southern city. The Nashville area offers a vivid portrait of a bygone era, featuring graceful architecture, opulent mansions, a rich riverfront merchant district and much more. And Music City is still making history.

You will depart with a guide on a professional guided city tour of Nashville to include a drive-by of the following historic Second Ave, Fort Nashborough, the state capitol, Bicentennial Capitol Mall, Music Row, Vanderbilt University, and Centennial Park, and the Parthenon. Also included in the tour is admission into the Ryman Auditorium and your choice to either the Country Music Hall of Fame OR Musclan's Hall of Fame.



### Grand Ole Opry Show

Reserved seats are included for the Grand Ole Opry, the world's longest radio show. The Grand Ole Opry, an American Icon and Nashville's number one attraction, is known for creating one-of-a-kind entertainment experiences for audiences of all ages. It's where unforgettable moments happen every week. With country music's new stars, superstars, and legends live on stage.

Go to [www.illica.net](http://www.illica.net) for 2009 National Winter Convention Registration form and other details.

# Featured Contractor "EXTREME" LITWILLER EXCAVATING



It was no surprise to ILICA's executive director when she heard that Litwiller Excavating was involved in the volunteer work of building an "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" project in Pekin Illinois. As local media announced bits and pieces of information as to where and when the celebrities and their enormous support team would arrive, they also released the name of the general contractor involved in the project, who had been notified weeks earlier of course.

By the time the public became aware of the central Illinois project, many of the contractors had already been determined. Melanie Spurgeon, owner of Peoria-based Design Built Homes had her own dedicated team working on the home weeks before media coverage began and it was Melanie that contacted Litwiller Excavating as soon as she agreed to take on this monumental project. Design Built Homes had worked with the Litwillers for the past 10 years, whenever they needed excavation work done, and Melanie knew they were the only ones she wanted for this important job.

As luck would have it, on the way to a site visit for the Ladies Day outing venue, Janice Litwiller just happened to mention that Wayne and Jeff were scheduled to start demolition of the old Grys home the following Wednesday. However, a quick phone call to Wayne made it clear that the wheels were already in motion. Litwiller's were building a short road between a neighbors driveway and the back of the Grys property for truck and equipment access and were



(Above) Carl Baer, Wayne and Jeff Litwiller, of Litwiller Excavating (Left) Dumping Gravel on top of fabric underlay for the new access road (Lower left) Beginning of demolition at the front of Gry's home. (Page 13, Upper right) Ty Pennington climbing into rubble for filming session. (Center) Excavator buckets making short work of debris. (Lower right) Start of basement excavation.



not only responsible for the demolition phase but were also scheduled to dig the basement and footings once the debris was cleared, all within a very tight timeline.

As the editor of *ILLICA News*, Janet Doubet saw a perfect candidate for another Featured Contractor story. Figuring security would be tight around the highly secretive show, she asked if Janice could somehow get photos of the demolition. However, with some help from Wayne (listing Janet as one of his employees), and a blue hard hat from the ILICA office, she was quickly escorted to the roof of the Pekin firehouse, directly across the street from the



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## “EXTREME” LITWILLER EXCAVATING (CONT.)

demolition site. The local TV crew had their cameras set up on the same roof and it proved to be a perfect location for action shots, considering the huge crowds packed along the barricaded street. Only the ABC camera crews were allowed front and center during demolition...for a while anyway.

Litwiller's had two of their CAT excavators poised at the front of the soon to be destroyed home and Wayne was waiting at the rear of the home with a brand new CAT 315D, courtesy of Altorfers, Inc. in East Peoria. Everyone anxiously watched Jeff Litwiller and Carl Beer climb in and out of the excavators in front, waiting for the engines to fire up and for the show to begin. Excitement built as the program's star, Ty Pennington, finally arrived marking the real start of demolition. Within 20 minutes, what had been an average ranch style home was reduced to a pile of rubble, broken into relatively small pieces that fit into the home's



existing basement. Things were moving right along and despite the late start, Wayne soon started loading the first buckets of debris into the waiting haul trucks.

However, in contrast to your average, every-day kind of demolition job, this one involved the full blown “Hollywood” TV filming, special effects and “hurry up to wait” execution one might expect from watching the weekly episodes on ABC. Just as quickly as the building had

come down, everything came to a sudden halt as small explosives were carefully placed for the next filming session and Ty positioned himself in the rubble for the handheld camera message to the vacationing Grys family. Amazingly enough, the filming ends up taking longer than the actual demolition and the Litwiller operators, including Wayne, are soon pacing back and forth next to their equipment watching their precious time gain slip away.

Once again, as soon as the film crews are sure they have the shots they need, the construction crews are back to work at a frantic pace. The haul trucks had just arrived on site when the filming started, so they were ready to get loaded and move out of the way for the next guy, like an oversized, rumbling merry-go-round; reminiscent of the last Lasser pond expo project near Colfax. One full truck after another pulls out the new drive built for the occasion as the pile of rubble quickly disappears and new excavation begins.

And so the glamorous part of demolition is done. The filming is over for now, but throughout the night, volunteers keep working to get the excavation done and the basement walls up before morning. Rain remains in the fore-



cast for the rest of the week and time is a precious commodity no one involved in this project has to spare. Rain or shine, work continues, which brings us to the real heart of this story.

As one can imagine, an undertaking such as this takes an army of help, and this help was all volunteer. After spring rains that kept most Midwestern contractors off their equipment for months on end, the idea of taking any time away from productive work time would be more than most would even consider. But then, we're talking about Wayne Litwiller; the quintessential ILICA member.

Wayne has been an ILICA member since 1986 and has been active on many committees, projects and events. As a man who puts the needs of others first, he is always ready to lend his hand, his staff, his equipment and his hard earned money to a worthy cause. He has served ILICA for years as head of the Industrial and Business Relations committee, securing equipment for several Conservation Expos and has used his own equipment and staff on many other projects that directly supported ILICA. Wayne takes a personal interest in other ILICA members, offering advice from his years in the industry and from his deep personal faith. He is one of



## “EXTREME” LITWILLER EXCAVATING (CONT.)



the most vocal safety advocates in the organization and has most recently helped the membership committee which he co-chairs with Norm Kocher, realize a milestone by bringing the number of ILICA contractors to over 100 once again. His commitment to the membership drive has only increased with the success of our November State-Wide Sweep.

And as this project shows, the generosity of Litwiller Excavating doesn't stop with ILICA. Although the demolition sequence on the popular Sunday evening program only

(Above left) Wayne in the brand new CAT 315D (Right) The finished product: a new home for the Gry's family.

lasts a few moments, the volunteers involved are there much longer. Even after the basement and footings were done and most of the Litwiller's staff was back home or back on the projects started early that week, Wayne remained at the "Extreme Home Makeover" construction site until the yard was ready for sod and landscapers. Several of his employees also donated the time they spent at the show site, and one can't help but think that it is Wayne's example that drives their actions. ILICA is blessed to have Litwiller Excavating as an "active" member, which is something his church and community have known for a long time.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

It's been a very exciting year at Illinois LICA, and from where I sit, it looks like it's just going to keep getting better and better. During the 2 short years I've been with the organization, we've completed 2 Conservation Expos, 2 very successful conventions and have now reached the long-time goal of securing over 100 contractor members for 2009. Our Membership committee has dedicated weeks of their time to achieve this goal, and it has been an inspiration to work with them, especially this past November.

Illinois LICA has a lot to offer contractors all over the state, and the November membership sweep confirmed what Jerry Biuso has said all along. If we want to build our membership, we can't sit back and expect them to come knocking on our door; we have to take Illinois LICA to them. The November member meetings were very well received, and there is no doubt that our numbers will continue to grow in Areas 3 and 8, where we have dedicated director

involvement for those meetings to continue.

This has created the need for a lot more travel on my part, but the successes of 2008 seem to indicate that it is well worth it. I am in the office most week days from 9 am until 5 pm and try to leave detailed messages on the answering machine if I have to be gone. As Illinois LICA becomes better known across the state, requests for our presence at meetings and other events continue to increase. Many of our members participate in their county's Contractor Meetings, which is just another way that the organization gains recognition. Thanks go out to all those dedicated members that keep Illinois LICA front and center in their home areas.

I'd also like to thank our associate members who continue to support the organization with their time and money. The generosity I have witnessed from our loyal associates since taking this job has been phenomenal, and I know everyone in the organization appreciates it as much as I do. I am honored to work with each one of you and again, thank you all for making this job so enjoyable.

## ILICA MEMBER THANK YOU'S

*We would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, and words of comfort on the passing of Joe's grandmother, Eloise Guyot. She loved to crochet afghans, which some of you generously purchased at our ILICA auctions. Also, a special thank you to Janet for attending her service.*

*May God Bless You All.  
Joe & Jackie Streitmatter*



*We would like to thank everyone who attended the open house in honor of our many milestones reached in 2008. It was such a surprise to see so many ILICA members drive all the way to Galva to see us. We were honored to be remembered by so many fine friends.*

*We want to thank our children for making this day so special for us and for all the planning and hard work involved.*

*Thanks too for all the cards and well wishes we received. We hope each of you know how much you and ILICA mean to both of us.*

*Dale & Donna Collinson*



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 Wayne Litwiller  
 John McCoy  
 Joe Streitmatter



**Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority**

The committee system is the best system yet devised in a democracy to capture and develop ideas into a workable program. The FUNCTION of each committee is to gather ideas from every source that relates to its area of concern. Those ideas should be advanced in the form of a proposal. Each member of the committee has a personal RESPONSIBILITY to become knowledgeable in that area of the committee's concern. Each committee has the AUTHORITY to investigate, research, meet submit reports and develop proposals, to the extent of its budget.

Committees are authorized by the By-Laws as an instrument of the Board as a means to secure ideas and suggestions from the membership. Committees which do not gather and refine ideas for presentation to the Board are missing the opportunity to serve the Association. Committees can be no stronger than the individual members who serve on them.

The committee structure of Illinois LICA is an integral part of every function, goal and service we provide. Committees are the driving force behind every convention, workshop, expo or membership drive and one of the reasons we have celebrated more than 50 years of success. If you are interested in becoming involved in one of the committees listed on page 16, please let your Area Director or any member of the Executive Committee know.

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**NEW COMMITTEE  
MEMBER SELECTION**

Each January, the ILICA president reviews the prior years' committee lists and determines any changes, deletions or additions for the new calendar year.



Some committees have a geographic element to the member selection, some are reflections of areas of interest by those members. If you have ever ask yourself, "I wonder why they decided to do that?", please review the brief descriptions of the responsibilities of some of ILICA's more active committees listed below and see where your interests fit in.

- ◆ **Education Committee** - This committee is responsible for securing topics and facilitators for workshops, convention educational sessions and Area member meetings. This committee is required to glean through a vast amount of information that is important to our contractors in Illinois.
- ◆ **Legislative Committee** - This committee is responsible for tracking state legislation that can impact small business people in our industry and is currently drafting a working model to speed up the process of getting this information out to ILICA membership.
- ◆ **Long Term Planning Committee** - This committee works closely with Illinois NRCS and other partners on the programs that assist landowners with land improvements. As the name suggests however, ILICA's long-term goals are considered and decided by this committee.
- ◆ **Membership Committee** - Work with Wayne and Norm on increasing ILICA's footprint in Illinois. If you believe in ILICA benefits, this committee could be for you.
- ◆ **Show Committee** - With the hope of skipping a year or two before the next ILICA Expo, this committee will re-work the current timeline and partner responsibilities to fit today's challenges. They will also consider new approaches to ILICA's "hands-on" training opportunities.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Illinois

**ILICA Convention and Members Meeting**  
**President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL**  
 January 15 - 17, 2009  
**Exhibits Open Thursday at 3:00 pm**  
**Member Meeting Friday at 1:45 pm**  
**Abraham Lincoln Museum Tour Saturday at 1:00 pm**

**Annual Workshop**  
**10 Hour OSHA Certification**  
**Ramada Inn - Brandywine - Peoria, IL**  
 February 24 - 25, 2009

#### National

**2009 LICA Winter Convention**  
**Embassy Suites - Nashville, TN**  
**(Registration forms available on our web-site)**  
 February 12 - 14, 2009

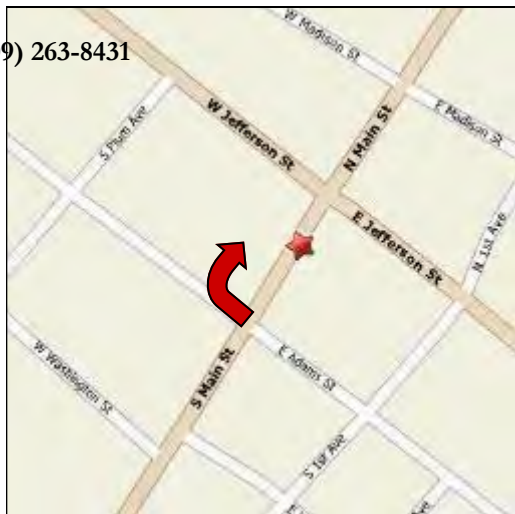
**2009 LICA Summer Convention**  
**Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA**  
 July 15 - 18, 2009

**2010 LICA Summer Convention**  
**Peoria, IL**  
 July 14 - 17, 2010

#### March Board Meeting Location: Heiser Insurance

From I-74, take Exit 102, Morton Avenue to Jackson St. Turn left onto Jackson St and follow it to Main. Turn right onto Main, go 4 blocks to Adams St. Turn right onto Adams and turn right into the parking lot. From I55, take Main to Adams, turn left and park behind the building. There is a glass entrance door into the building from that parking lot. (You'll actually enter into a sandwich shop, but Heiser's office is to the left down the main hallway.)

Heiser's # (309) 263-8431



# SAFETY FEATURE - 2009 ILICA WORKSHOP

## 2009 WORKSHOP AND OPTIONAL CERTIFICATION TESTING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

RAMADA INN - 4400 N. BRANDYWINE DR., PEORIA, ILLINOIS



The 2009 Workshop and Certification Testing have been scheduled for **February 24-25, 2009** at the **Ramada Inn, Peoria Illinois**. You are invited to attend this workshop which will include a session on GPS Machine Control for excavation and tiling applications, followed by the 10 Hour OSHA Certification training. There is a class size limit of 50 for OSHA certification, so the first 50 registrations will be honored. If the response to this program exceeds capacity, a second workshop will be considered for Southern Illinois. The agenda is listed on the following page and the registration form is below. Lunch and breaks are provided for all attendees on both session days and a complimentary hot breakfast buffet is included for those staying at the hotel.

Please return your registration form before February 16, 2009 to get pre-registration pricing. Continuing Education Credits (CECs) are given for participation and an OSHA 10-Hour Certification card will be mailed directly to you following completion of the course. There is no testing required for the 10 Hour OSHA Certification. **ILICA member** workshop fee is **\$100** if received by February 16th or **\$125** for late or on-site registration. **Non-ILICA member** workshop fee is **\$150** if received by February 16th or **\$175** for late or on-site registration.

Optional ILICA Certification review and testing is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon for those interested. You must have 8 CEC's bi-annually to maintain your certification status. Certification review and testing for ILICA members is \$100 per person for initial certification and \$50 for bi-annual renewal certification. Re-testing classifications or testing for additional classifications are at no additional charge. Review and testing for non-members is \$500 per person for initial certification and \$200 for bi-annual renewal.



**From East:** Follow I-74 West to Peoria and follow through town to Exit 89, US-150 W / West War Memorial Dr. Turn right onto W. Scenic Dr. and quickly turn right again onto N. Brandywine Dr. Ramada Inn is on your right.

**From West:** Follow I-74 East into Peoria to Exit 88, US 150 W / War Memorial Dr. Turn left onto N. Sterling Ave. and turn right after .7 mile onto US-150 E / N. War Memorial Dr. Turn left at .2 mile onto W. Scenic Dr. and quickly turn right onto N. Brandywine Dr.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Area #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I will attend:**

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- 2009 Annual Workshop. . . . . (ILICA members = \$100, Non-ILICA members = \$150)
- Initial Certification Testing . . . (ILICA members = \$100, Non-ILICA members = \$500)
- Bi-Annual Renewal . . . . . (ILICA members = \$50, Non-ILICA members = \$200)

**Pre-Registration fee: (Must be received in our office by February 16, 2009)**  
**Mail to: ILICA - P.O. Box 474 - Brimfield, IL 61517 or Fax (309) 446-3744**

## 2009 ILICA WORKSHOP AGENDA



### Tuesday, February 24, 2009 [Breaks & Lunch provided]

9:00 - 11:30 am	Machine Control
<i>Break at 10:15 am</i>	<i>Joey Schlatter, Schlatter's Inc.</i>
12:00 noon	Lunch (on site)
1:00 - 5:00 pm	10 Hour OSHA Certification
	<i>Bruce Mosier, Prins Insurance</i>
	<i>Dale Kuhn, JULIE Damage Prevention Manager</i>

### Wednesday, February 25, 2009 [Breaks & Lunch provided]

8:00 - 11:45 am & 1:00 - 3:00 pm	10 Hour OSHA Certification
<i>Break at 10:15 am</i>	<i>Bruce Mosier, Prins Insurance</i>
	<i>Dale Kuhn, JULIE Damage Prevention Manager</i>
12:00 noon	Lunch (on site)
3:15 - 5:00 pm	Illinois LICA Certification Review & Testing
	<i>Kent Mitchell, Dave Hurst</i>

#### Workshop Fees - ILICA Members

\$100

After February 16, 2009

\$125

#### Optional Certification Review & Testing (2 year certification period)

\$100—Initial Certification Per Applicant

\$50—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant

#### Workshop Fees - Non-Members

\$150

After February 16, 2009

\$175

#### Optional Certification Review & Testing (2 year certification period)

\$500—Initial Certification Per Applicant

\$200—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant

Contact the **Ramada Inn** at (309) 686-8000 if you require overnight accommodations. Be sure to mention ILICA to receive our guaranteed room rate of \$72, which includes:  
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#### Registration Required

**OSHA class size is limited to 50 participants. First 50 registrations will be honored.**

**Please return enclosed registration form before February 16, 2009 to:**

**Illinois LICA  
P.O. Box 474  
Brimfield, IL 61517**

Contact Janet Doubet, Executive Director ILICA at (309) 446-3700 or via email at [janet@illica.net](mailto:janet@illica.net) with any questions regarding this information.

## HELPFUL TIPS FROM U OF I EXTENSION ONLINE ENERGY AUDIT CAN HELP SAVE ON HEATING BILLS

Conserving the heat in your home during the winter has always been a smart thing to do. But, the current economic situation has made many consumers and families more aware of the need to conserve.

"There are several low-cost and no-cost things you can do to save on your heating costs this winter," says Duane Friend, University of Illinois Extension natural resources educator. "And, a home energy audit is one of those things that can result in big savings."

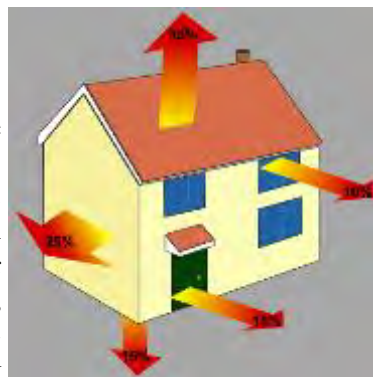
A home energy audit shows you where energy is being wasted. You can get a professional energy audit or use an on-line energy audit calculator. The following is from the Home Energy Saver website.

The Home Energy Saver (HES) website, <http://hes.lbl.gov/>, is an interactive tool for residential consumers. The HES site is easy to use, giving you the option of entering just a few basic facts about your home or a lot of detail. Starting at the HES top page, this is the general process you will go through to evaluate your house.

**1. Input your zip code.** Once you've entered your zip code and selected "Go," the Energy Advisor will give you a breakdown of the energy use of an average house in your region, and the same house after energy-efficient improvements.

**2. Input key facts about your home.** Below these initial results you'll find an input page with about two dozen basic questions about your home. Most of these you'll be able to answer from memory. A few may require you to look up information in your records. Answer as many questions as you can, and hit "start calculation" or "save answers." The Energy

Advisor will re-calculate the energy use and costs, this time based on your home. Now you have a breakdown of energy costs in your house, not an average house, and you can look at recommendations for saving energy tailored to your own home, ranked by payback time.



If you can't provide all the information that the Energy Advisor asks for, the software automatically adds in default values drawn from a database of typical housing characteristics. However, the more information you give the Energy Advisor, the more accurate its calculations.

**3. If you want to know more about the specifics of your energy costs, go to the modules and enter detailed information.** The Home Energy Saver performs detailed calculations for the energy use of your home's space heating, cooling and water heating systems, appliances, lighting and miscellaneous energy use.

You can focus on any one of these areas by clicking on a particular module and filling in the blanks. For example, if your home has high winter heating bills, you can enter more detail about the parts of your home that affect heating (roof, walls, windows, heating system, etc.). When you go through the detailed input modules, the Energy Advisor will calculate your heating energy use more accurately, give you appropriate recommendations about energy-efficient heating improvements, and suggest ways of insulating your home.

If you have the time, work through all the modules and answer as many questions as possible. You may be surprised by the energy guzzlers in your home. When you've finished entering information you can select the "calculate" button to get your full results. The calculation is very detailed and will take a minute or so to complete.

Depending on how much time you spend collecting information about your house, it can take from 10 minutes to an hour to completely describe your house in the Energy Advisor. Friend says the more time you spend to accurately gather the information (measuring, checking product name plates, etc.), the more accurate your energy bill estimate will be.





# SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!





## Application for CONTRACTOR Membership

### Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



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\_\_\_\_\_ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred eighty-five Dollars (\$285) as my annual membership dues for the year \_\_\_\_\_. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

**Dues are \$285\***

**One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for Illinois Membership plus**

**One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership**

**New members only (years 1—2 of membership.) All existing members remain at \$400 annually.**

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to any ILICA member or to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ ILICA Area Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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- CUI-Cable/Utility Installation     DB-Directional Boring     DI-Drainage or Irrigation     DWM-Drainage Water Mgmt
- EC-Erosion Control     EMC-Earthmoving/Land Clearing     EXG-Excavating or Grading     GR-Gravel/Rock Production
- LL-Land Leveling     LS—Landscaping     ODW-Open Ditch Work     OSW-On Site Waste Treatment     PD-Ponds / Dams
- RBD-Road Boring/Drainage     R-Reclamation     SA-Service Co (Government, Insurance Agency, Dealer)     SEP-Septic Systems
- SP-Site Prep     SWU-Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities     TH-Trucking or Hauling     TW-Terraces & Waterways
- WM—Water Management.





## Application for SUBSCRIPTION Membership

### Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • [janet@illica.net](mailto:janet@illica.net)

Subscription membership entitles the member to each issue of the *Illica News* newsletter and 1 copy of the annual directory for the subscription year. The annual membership dues are **\$25.00** and offset the cost of publication and mailing.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_





# Application for ASSOCIATE Membership Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

\_\_\_\_\_ hereby makes application for Associate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) as my annual membership dues for the year \_\_\_\_\_. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Illica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporations, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment, material or services to land improvement contractors.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to any ILICA member or to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ ILICA Area Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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